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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 31 | Min 21 | Humidity 71% Generally cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain Sensex 65,401 | Nifty 19,434 | Gold 59,510 | Silver 72,800 | Dollar 82.95 | Euro 90.68 | GBP 105.20

CITY / PAGE 3

DODGY JUNK

As vehicles seized by police rot away, they are also providing cover for dubious activities

CITY / PAGE 4

FILL THE BLANK

Demand to close gap between KR Puram, Baiyappanahalli Metro lines gains traction

Should shared autos be considered as a mode of transport for first and last-mile connectivity? Experts and citizens express their opinion

FAIR SHARE OF MOBILITY PIE

Expert tips: Do away with mandate for separate licence; use spacious e-autos

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Currently, shared auto services are considered illegal in the city, but auto drivers say the services are provided in some areas because they are profitable.

With transport authorities in Pune considering the introduction of shared auto services to ensure that commuters of the metro have a reliable mode of transport for last-mile connectivity, we asked around to understand if Bengaluru too can get around to using this mode. The way the Pune Regional Transport Office (RTO) is going about it is that a two-day survey would be conducted to check the feasibility of the project – considering factors such as parking space availability in the vicinity of the metro station that can facilitate a pick-and-drop service.

Currently, in Bengaluru, shared auto service operation is considered illegal as those vehicles that provide shared services are required to obtain a different licence. Previously, aggregator applications such as Uber Pool and ZipGo private buses have also faced this issue as they had not obtained the required stage carriage licence.

Vijay Moses, an auto driver from

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 >>

> **For Mass Rapid Transit to be an attractive option for travel, the government must make way for services that will ensure first and last-mile connectivity is an easy affair**
>
> — Sandeep Anirudhan, convener Bengaluru Mobility/Citizens' Agenda for Bengaluru

Dog with a broken bone

Vet hospital receives more and more cases of stray dogs injured in road accidents

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Between January and December 2022, Veterinary College Hospital in Hebbal received nearly 10,000 stray dog injury cases. Out of these, 370 cases were of bone fractures due to various reasons such as falling from a height, physical trauma, and being hit by vehicles.

According to the researchers at the hospital, a majority of these injuries were that of stray dogs involved in road accidents. They say the number of such incidents is on the rise in Bengaluru.

"As 370 dogs were found to have fractures of various bones. We looked at the injury of a specific bone called tibia, which is prone to fracture. While 55 dogs suffered from tibial fractures, more than half of these cases were due to automobile accidents. The number of such cases has increased in the city," said Dr KM Srinivasa Murthy, assistant professor, Department of Veterinary Surgery, Karnataka Veterinary, Animal and Fisheries Sciences University, Bidar, Karnataka.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 >>

3 THINGS TO DO

01 Explore handlooms

GoCoop is hosting 'Go Swadeshi', a handloom exhibition that showcases a wide range of authentic handloom sarees, fabrics, dress materials, stoles, dupattas, menswear, home decor, and more. The event aims to support artisans and weavers from Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal.
Where: Shilpakala Kalyana Mandapa, Phase 3, JP Nagar, Bannerghatta Road
When: until August 20; 11 am to 8 pm

02 Talented folks

The latest edition of Young Artiste Festival 2023 is here. The event features young talents aged 6-21 years from various Indian states including Jammu & Kashmir, Sikkim, West Bengal, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, and Karnataka, showcasing their prowess in their art in instrumental, vocal and dance genres.
Where: Bangalore International Center, Domlur
When: August 20; from 5 pm onwards

Nurture health and nature

More than 25 senior citizens participated in a sapling planting activity, with each sapling bearing their respective names, during the Independence Day programme at Manipal Hospital, Malleswaram. Speaking on the occasion, Dr Shankar V, Consultant, Internal Medicine at Manipal Hospitals Malleswaram, said, "This was organised under the hospital's neighbourhood Connect programme, and Tuesday's event aimed to unite senior citizens who have been loyal patrons of the hospital since its inception. This gesture symbolised the enduring bond between the hospital and its community. Sandalwood actor Nagabhushana NS added, "On this Independence Day, let us cherish the bond of trust and togetherness as we nurture both health and nature." The day concluded with a breakfast that further strengthened the connection between humans and nature.

Wheels of transformation

KSRTC renovates 528 old buses for road use; commuters oppose this move

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File photo of refurbished KSRTC buses during the 62nd Foundation Day of the corporation at Shanti Nagar depot

The Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) has undertaken a cost-saving initiative by refurbishing old buses, which were originally destined for the scrap yard, at a total cost of Rs 206 crore. Normally, buses that have completed 10 lakh km of travel are 'retired' and sent to the scrapyard. In a bid to optimise resources, KSRTC has refurbished 528 buses in the first phase and put them back on the roads. However, many commuters have opposed the move, saying that these refurbished buses are being operated on rural routes and wonder why the rural commuters who pay the ticket like their urban counterparts are forced to use refurbished buses.

An official said, "KSRTC faced significant losses during the covid-19 pandemic and subsequent lockdown. Still recovering from these losses, the transport corporation lacked funds to purchase new buses. Therefore, the decision was made to refurbish old buses, which are usually mandated to run for 15 years according to central government rules. The buses selected for refurbishment are around 11–12 years old and have been certified for performance by the Regional Transport Offices (RTOs) before being released for service. These updated buses exhibit high fuel efficiency, providing a mileage of 5.20 km per litre of diesel compared to newly purchased buses that achieve a maximum of 5 km per litre."

Each updated bus is expected to cover 1 lakh km per year, making it capable of travelling up to 5 lakh km over 5 years. The rehabilitated buses are also road safety certified, ensuring passenger safety during their service.

The official explained, "The cost-saving benefits of this initiative are substantial. KSRTC has not purchased any new buses in the last five years, and the organisation would have spent Rs 42 lakh for each new bus. However, with the renovation of old buses costing only Rs 3 lakh per bus, a total of Rs 15.84 crore was spent to upgrade 528 buses, saving the organisation around Rs 222 crore, the estimated cost of buying 528 new buses."

They added that with Rs 206 crore collected from the recovery of old buses, KSRTC's needs are met within a reduced budget. Following KSRTC's successful rehabilitation plan, Kalyan Karnataka and Northwest Karnataka Transport Corporations have decided to adopt a similar approach.

> **"KSRTC faced significant losses during the covid-19 pandemic and subsequent lockdown. It is still recovering from these losses** – an official

The bus refurbishing process includes various steps such as removing rusty and damaged parts, installing new body fittings, undertaking flooring and panelling work, applying new sheet metal to the exterior, and replacing windows and windshields. The buses also receive new seat cushions and covers and undergo attractive colour coatings to enhance their appearance. For this purpose, regional workshops in Bengaluru and Hassan are dedicated. KSRTC has a current fleet of 8,100 buses near KSRTC.

However, not many are happy with this plan. They said that the old engine are forcing them to have a bumpy ride. "While the new buses are being deployed in Bengaluru, the rural areas are being given a raw deal where we have to still ride in the old buses. Even though the new buses have been given a cosmetic new look by refurbishing, the old engine and poor maintenance are forcing commuters to have a bumpy ride," said Chandrashekar, a regular traveller.

Freedom for animals: 'Time to make conscious choice'

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Stop blindfolding people to the reality of slaughterhouses
Are you taking away someone else's freedom?
Animals feel pain just like you
INDIA IS NOT FREE UNTIL ITS ANIMALS ARE FREE
THE VEGAN
Vegans assembled at Sapper War Memorial, each making a statement by locking themselves inside symbolic cages

A group of advocates got together at the Sapper War Memorial on Independence Day, August 15, to highlight the plight of non-human animals and promote veganism as a social justice movement. The event was organised by the local activism group Bengaluru Brigade for Animal Liberation in collaboration with the Vegan India Movement to raise awareness about animals that suffer similarly while being used for food, clothing, and others.

The members of the Bengaluru Brigade for Animal Liberation disclosed that the idea behind raising awareness on 77th Independence Day was to convey the powerful message that animals, just like humans, deserve freedom.

The vegans assembled at Sapper War Memorial to engage with the public, each making a profound statement by locking themselves inside symbolic cages and tying themselves with ropes, nets, and other props to aim to get the attention of the people and show that the animals are made to suffer similarly whilst being used for food, clothing, entertainment, or other purposes.

Nitin, one of the lead activists participating in the event, said, "We believe that the time has come to recognise animals as sentient beings with inherent rights to live free from exploitation. What we do to them today is nothing but slavery."

Richa, an advocate, said, "Our goal is to point out the cultural conditioning and prejudice that dictate the everyday choices we make to use animal-derived products, even though they are derived from suffering. We want to encourage a paradigm shift in society's perception of animals. A society that already shuns and punishes animal abuse. By living vegan, we can create a world where our actions align with our values of compassion and justice. This takes nothing away from us but changes the world for the animals who would otherwise be exploited and eventually killed."

Shady scenes: All seized, with nowhere to go

What goes on under cover of vehicles seized by police that lie forgotten?

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File photo of vehicles piling up near a police station in the city

Bengaluru has approximately 108 police stations, and 42 Traffic Police Stations, each of which seizes more than 30 vehicles every month. These seized vehicles have been lying around the city for years.

Earlier, during the hearing of a case, the High Court had advised the speedy disposal of vehicles seized in criminal cases which are kept near police stations.

As earlier reported by Bangalore Mirror, police stations like the High Grounds Police Station have left vehicles they have seized parked and to rot on the footpaths in the area.

A resident of the area told BM that these vehicles that are left on the road for years have become a hotspot for 'illegal activities'.

Sources claim that they have spotted young people smoking marijuana hidden away behind these vehicles.

However, Rajkumar Dugar, Founder & Convenor, Citizens For Citizens (C4C),says, "The probability of these activities is less when the vehicles are near the police station. However, the vehicles that are parked far from the police station, might attract miscreants."

He adds that the gap between the vehicles and lack of street lights adds up to the problem.

"These are junk vehicles so there is no proper lighting. Also the roads are blocked by the vehicles and that leads to low footfall. People who want to engage in illegal activities often look for areas with low visibility. If the vehicles are removed and there is proper lighting the chances of someone sitting between the junk cars and doing drugs decreases," said Dugar.

> **"These are junk vehicles so there is no proper lighting. Also the roads are blocked by the vehicles and that leads to low footfall. Both factors can attract miscreants**
>
> –Rajkumar Dugar, C4C

The police say that it is challenging to remove the seized vehicles because finding the owner of the seized vehicles is not easy.

Most of the cases go on for a long time and people change their addresses.

When the case is closed, the police look for the vehicle owner, but many times people are not found at the same address, which was given when the case was registered.

Another problem that the police are facing with the vehicles is that the owner of a lost vehicle never comes to the police station after filing a complaint.

Recently, 58 two-wheelers were burnt down after a transformer caught fire that spread to the vehicles parked in Kodigehalli police station limits. Some claim that miscreants are also stealing parts of the vehicles that are parked by the police.

'Help launch govt ride-hailing app in 6 months'

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The Transport Department has requested the e-Governance Department to develop the promised ride-hailing application in a span of six months and launch its services. After a meeting with auto and cab drivers in the city recently, transport minister Ramalinga Reddy had announced that the department would itself create a ride-hailing application, similar to private ones in the market currently.

The minister has said that the prime feature of the application will be ensuring the safety and security of passengers. He has added that the department may take assistance from private agencies for running the application. The minister has noted that the decision to come up with a ride-hailing application was taken up after several complaints were made by auto and cab drivers regarding high commission charges taken by other private aggregator applications.

Autos have been demanding alternate apps

On the other hand, transport department officials are planning to pay a visit to Kerala, in order to study the Kerala Savari application. The government-operated application was introduced in 2022 by the Kerala government, becoming the country's first online taxi service being provided by a state. A few months ago, the Goa government also introduced a state-operated taxi application which has now become common across the state.

Transport activists in the city have welcomed the move to introduce a state-operated application as it will eliminate the need for auto and cab drivers to pay commission. However, they have also pointed out that the needs of auto and cab unions must be closely considered and added that they need to be made stakeholders of the project for it to truly reach its potential.

Elevator issue at apartment complex has escalated

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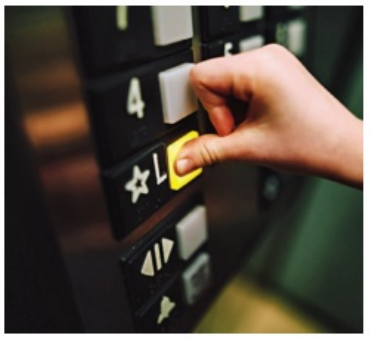
Thousands of flat owners at Mantri Serenity are likely to face an issue because of an alleged lapse by the builder. The apartment complex has around 30 lifts, but the builder is said to have failed to avail of permission from the authorities to operate these lifts.

The Electrical Inspector in a letter (No. EI/BS/AEI(T)UN Lift 2641-45/2-23-24) dated August 10 has directed India Heritage Trust and ISKCON Charities, GPA Castle Vista Private Limited, Mantri Serenity, Vasanthapura Village and Doddakallasandra Village to switch off the lifts until necessary approvals are obtained. "You are hereby informed to obtain the approval from this office at the earliest failing which action shall be initiated as per Karnataka Lifts Escalators and Passenger Conveyors Rules, 2015," the Electrical Inspector said in the letter.

The Electrical Inspector stated that there are 30 lifts in Tower 4 and 5 that have not got approvals from the Electrical Inspectorate, Government of Karnataka. "It is necessary to obtain the lift licence as per the New Karnataka Lifts, Escalators and Passenger Conveyors Rules, 2015," the Electrical Inspector said.

Meanwhile, the residents who have already occupied the flats are worried about their safety. "Using stairs will be a risk for us. I stay on the 20th floor. Is it possible to use the stairs for the 20th floor? The builder told the home buyers that occupation certificate (OC) is in place. It is the responsibility of the builder to avail of permission from the competent authority to operate the lifts here," said Vikram SG, one of the flat owners.



Residents of high-rise building can't do without lift usage

Sridhar T, another flat owner, said the builder should have taken measures to get the permission. "It is wrong to operate lifts without permission from the authorities. Interior work is in progress at my flat and I am expected to occupy it soon. I hope the builder will get the permission to avoid inconvenience to the flat owners," said Sridhar.

> **I stay on the 20th floor. Is it possible to use the stairs for the 20th floor? The builder told the home buyers that occupation certificate (OC) is in place**
>
> –Resident of the apartment complex

Karnataka Home Buyers Forum Sanchalak Dhananjaya Padmanabhachar said that it was the responsibility of the promoters to take approvals from the Department of Electrical Inspectorate to run the lifts in the apartment. "It is shocking to see the charitable organisations like ISKCON Charities and India Heritage Trust who are the landowners in the project Mantri Serenity are also not following the rules and running 30 lifts without approvals," said Padmabhachar.

He said that the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) has issued occupancy certificate in December 2022 to this project without lift approval in place! "This needs further investigation into how BDA issued the occupancy certificates without the approval for operating lifts at this apartment complex," he said.

Metro purple line: Wait to fill the blank extends again

New line to reduce travel time, attract 80,000 – 90,000 extra commuters

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The demand for integrating the missing link between KR Puram and Baiyappanahalli on the Purple Line has been steadily increasing. However, deadlines continue to extend month by month. Initially projected to open in June, the unveiling of the missing link was postponed to August. Presently, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's recent announcement indicates that the missing link may only open next month.

During his Independence Day speech, Siddaramaiah said, "The current stretch of the Metro train network in Bengaluru is 69.66 km. About 6.1 lakh passengers are using the metro facilities daily. By September 2023, the Baiyappanahalli-Krishnarajapuram line and Kengeri-Challaghatta line expansion will be operational, and by December, the Nagasandra-Madavara expansion and the new line connecting R.V. Road and Bommanahalli will be operational. By 2026, Namma Metro will have a 175.55 km network in Bengaluru. Currently, Bengaluru's Metro network stands second in the country."

This means that by September, Bengaluru Metro is set for a new record as the Purple Line will become the longest (uninterrupted) Metro line in the city. If all goes as planned, the Metro Purple Line will finally be fully open for traffic, including the expanded route of the second phase of the project. The remaining 1.9 km stretch from Kengeri to Challaghatta and the 2 km missing link between Baiyappanahalli and KR Puram are set to open for commercial traffic. Trials on the Baiyappanahalli and KR Puram stretch are already underway.

By September, Bengaluru Metro will set a new record as the Purple line will become the longest Metro line in the city

A BMRCL official said, "We have planned to commence the 43 km service between Chalaghatta and Whitefield (Kadugodi) stations of the Purple Line once the missing link is connected. This extension covers a total of 37 stations and will significantly improve connectivity from the western side to the IT Corridor, Whitefield." The completion of this extension is expected to attract an additional 80,000 to 90,000 daily commuters. Travel time between Challaghatta and Whitefield via Baiyappanahalli-KR Puram can be substantially reduced.

> **"We have planned to commence the 43 km service between Chalaghatta and Whitefield stations once the missing link is connected** – BMRCL Official

Although the KR Puram-Whitefield stretch was inaugurated by PM Modi earlier in the year, the missing link couldn't be connected initially due to the challenging task of installing the open web girder on top of the Bengaluru-Salem railway line near Benniganahalli. It was successfully cast in February. This 65-meter-long and 550-tonne web girder is the longest one installed on the Bengaluru Metro rail line, providing crucial support for the ongoing metro expansion.

On the other hand, the short stretch of the Kengeri-Challaghatta metro work faced delays due to various reasons, including land acquisition issues, changes in contractors, and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, the civil work of the project is now completed, and by the end of this month, the metro service on the pending Purple Line from Kengeri to Challaghatta and KR Puram to Baiyappanahalli will begin. Passengers will be able to travel directly from Challaghatta to Whitefield on Mysore Road.

An official said, "Looking ahead, BMRCL has ambitious plans for the metro network. The current metro line spans 70 km, and the goal is to have a total of 175 km by 2025. Though the project is behind schedule by one year, significant progress has been made with 74 km already completed, leaving 101 km to be achieved in the next two years. In the last two years, the Purple Route has seen substantial progress, with 20 km of extensions completed, including 7.5 km from Mysore Road to Kengeri in August 2021 and 13.71 km from Whitefield to KR Puram in March 2023. With the remaining four km set to open by the end of this month, the total length of the Purple Route will reach 43 km, providing enhanced traffic and transportation options for Bengaluru's residents."

BDA's layout promise falls short, Deputy CM calls for action

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The Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) is tasked with ensuring high-quality infrastructure in the layouts it develops. However, if Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar's recent statement after visiting Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout is any indication, it's clear that BDA officials need to step up their efforts.

The Deputy Chief Minister noted that neither the site allottees nor the farmers who gave up their land have benefited from the ongoing development of the Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout. Interestingly, he did not hold the BDA officials and engineers accountable for the issues with the layout.

Over the years, the helpless site allottees have been tirelessly seeking the completion of developmental work on the layout. Last year, the 16-member Assembly Petition Committee visited the site and instructed BDA officials to ensure basic amenities and complete ongoing developmental projects. However, most of these works have yet to begin. The delay is due to pending bills not being settled with contractors, leading to a halt in the work over a year ago. The site allottees are urging the BDA to finish these pending tasks so they can begin constructing their homes.

Deputy CM DK Shivakumar along with BDA officials at Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout

"I appeal to the Deputy Chief Minister to complete the land acquisition process and take measures to complete all the ongoing developmental works," said Nuggenahalli Sridhar, Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout Open Forum President.

During his recent visit to Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout, the Deputy Chief Minister acknowledged that land acquisition for the layout is still incomplete. He assured the site allottees of discussions with officials and landowners to find a solution.

"I am visiting this layout as per the request from the site allottees to solve many issues at this layout. We have to do justice to the site allottees as well as to the farmers who parted with their land for the formation of this layout," the Deputy Chief Minister stated.

Speaking to Bangalore Mirror, Surya Kiran, the spokesperson for Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout Open Forum, affirmed that the Deputy Chief Minister's statement aligns with the concerns consistently raised by the forum.

"Around 40 percent of land acquisition is pending. The BDA has to appoint more special land acquisition officers to resolve pending land acquisition issues at the earliest," said Surya.

Stressing the importance of completing ongoing developmental work at the layout, he emphasised that BDA officials must stop making excuses for the delays. He said, "We will keep meeting the Deputy Chief Minister and highlighting these issues until they are resolved."

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Room upgrade

Nandini Layout

The reading room at Jai Maruti Nagar Junction, Nandini Layout, is highly inconvenient. Government could supply a wooden rack to display reading materials neatly.

Footpath blockage

Vasanth Nagar

The footpath in Ward 93, Vasanth Nagar, is inaccessible to pedestrians. It is notable due to the nearby office complexes.

Sanitation crisis

Richmond Town

Urgent attention required at Leonard Lane, Richmond Town, where there is no regular sweeping or garbage pick-up, and people are urinating behind parked cars.

PICS: KAUSHIK JN

Here's to a grand celebration

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah salutes the forces during the 77th Independence Day celebrations at Field Marshal Manekshaw Parade Grounds in Bengaluru on Tuesday; jawans of various regiments of security forces marched and performed bike stunts to mark the occasion; flower show at Lalbagh saw a huge footfall on Tuesday

'Not everyone has a seat'

Disabled and non-domiciled women raise concerns on being deprived of Shakthi scheme

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It has been two months since the Shakthi scheme, allowing free bus travel for women on state buses, was implemented in Karnataka. While it has catered to a majority of categories among women, like students as well as the working-class, disabled women have not reaped any of the benefits of the scheme as the designs of buses currently in service are inaccessible.

Ganga Mandel, a Zomato employee with a loco-motive disability, told Bangalore Mirror that the Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) runs buses that have steep and narrow steps to enter.

"To climb the current BMTC bus, a person with loco-motive disability needs assistance from either the bus crew or the passengers sitting inside. However, if the buses are low-floored like the buses designated to provide airport route services (KIA), they will become easily accessible to the disabled," she explained.

She noted that travelling by bus could become much more convenient if a spot in the bus was kept aside for wheelchair users. Disabled women would save a small percentage of their incomes that would instead be spent on commutes if the government were to take a policy measure to ensure inclusivity. "The government should take measures to implement a designated bus for the disabled. It can be run on a shuttle basis," she said.

On August 11, a total of 66,92,826 women travelled for free

> **To climb the current BMTC bus, a person with loco-motive disability needs assistance from either bus crew or the passengers**
>
> –Ganga Mandel

A study by the Tamil Nadu Planning Board has revealed that women, after the introduction of the scheme in the state, were able to save between Rs 756 and Rs 1,012 in a month.

Siddarth Daga, a part of NeoMotion, a start-up that builds customised wheelchairs and provides a motorised scooter attachment, said that bus accessibility for wheelchair users is happening at a snail's pace.

"Whatever new infrastructure is coming up, they have already taken into consideration the requirements of those with loco-motive disabilities. The existing fleet of buses cannot be changed, hence, we must find alternatives," he explained. He noted that for a disabled person to enter a bus, the ordeal will at least take five minutes, for which the other passengers in the bus might not have patience.

"There is a need for a change in attitude and the findings of newer alternatives to make travel for the disabled with the existing fleet of buses easier," he said.

Many senior citizens have also complained of the same issue of inaccessibility. Shaheen Shasa from the Bengaluru Bus Prayanikara Vedike (BBPV) said, "What we are talking about, all these measures—they don't help just persons with disabilities. They also help the elderly, children, parents travelling with small children, people travelling with luggage, etc. So these measures benefit a wide cross-section of people and should be taken up as a priority to make our bus systems and mobility systems inclusive for persons with disabilities and others as well."

No smart cards

The Road Transport Corporations (RTCs) have decided to introduce passes for the Shakthi scheme, similar to those of regular bus passes, instead of smart cards. The transport minister has instructed officials across all the departments of the RTCs to utilise the existing system to print and issue the passes. The Centre for e-Governance (CeG), which was approached by the RTCs for the development of the scheme smartcard, declined the proposal.

On August 11, a total of 66,92,826 women travelled using the free bus services, with the total ticket value of their travel standing at Rs 14.54 crore. Between the two months, a total of 37,49,80,301 people have used the scheme, costing the government Rs 868.98 crore. It is to be noted that under the FAME II scheme (Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles in India), the corporation had designated 300 non-AC electric buses with the facility, with an objective to provide disabled-friendly services.

What about non-domiciled?

Juri, a beautician from Assam who has been working in Bengaluru for the last seven years and resides in Devasandra in east Bengaluru, has been trying to avail of the Shakthi scheme for her commute to work. However, her Aadhar card has her permanent home address in Assam. The 32-year-old says she has been paying the bus fare while others from her locality are travelling free.

"I availed myself of the scheme for the first few days after it was rolled out. I used to show my Aadhar card with my permanent address, and bus travel was free. However, after a week or so, the BMTC conductors started charging me, saying I was not a local. I got my Aadhar card in Bengaluru, but I mentioned my home address, thinking it might be a problem otherwise," said Juri, who is now trying to get her address changed.

The free bus travel scheme for women passengers has put hundreds of women like Juri, who are not holding Karnataka domicile, into a disadvantageous position. These women, working as beauticians, house helpers, construction workers, etc., say the scheme should include them as they too contribute towards the economic growth of the state.

Experts question the equity angle of the scheme and say holding Karnataka's domicile should not play a role in any woman availing of the benefits of this scheme.

"Anybody residing in the state should be able to use the scheme and benefit. Why should these women be deprived just because they are from different states? After all, they are working here and contributing to the economy. How is this scheme fair, and why should we single out migrants? The government can think about replacing the Aadhar card with maybe an employee ID as proof that they live and work here," said Prof Ashish Verma, convenor, Sustainable Transportation Lab, Indian Institute of Science (IISc). Transport activists say Shakthi scheme should emulate Tamil Nadu and New Delhi's strategy, whereby local domicile is not mandated.

Litterbugs are trashing BTM Layout's footpaths

And BBMP not bothered to clear it up despite repeated complaints, says citizens

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The residents of BTM Layout 2nd stage have voiced their frustration over the negligence of the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP). Despite numerous complaints filed by concerned citizens, the problem of indiscriminate garbage dumping on footpaths has persisted unabated for the past five years.

The 300-metre stretch along 29th Main, BTM 2nd Stage, has become a source of distress for pedestrians, as it has transformed into an unusable pathway due to rampant and unchecked garbage accumulation.

The residents disclosed that the primary cause of the issue was the improper use of the pavement by garbage contractors, who have turned it into impromptu sorting and dumping ground. Compounding the issue, the location, situated near the BWSSB STP pump house of Madiwala Lake, has only worsened the situation. Despite a barrage of complaints to the BBMP, no meaningful action has been taken to rectify the matter.

Sumana Ray, a resident in the area said, "Pavements should never be used to dump, sort, or transfer waste in a city. Several complaints that I have made to the BBMP regarding the garbage issue have gone unaddressed. The restaurants and the people in the area dump their garbage here. The road along the footpath stinks, and (the lack of) hygiene is a big problem. The deteriorating state of the footpath has not only hindered pedestrian movement but has also tarnished the image of once-posh localities like BTM Layout."

Trash is strewn on the pavements of BTM Layout 2nd stage

Vishnu Reddy, a core team member of the Bengaluru NavaNirmana Party (BNP), highlighted the failure of the system, saying, "It is sad to see that posh localities in the city are also facing garbage issues. Every year, the BBMP sets aside a sizable chunk of its budget for effective solid waste management and for the upkeep of footpaths and roads in the city. Although the funds allegedly get utilized, the condition of these civic amenities remains pathetic. The main reason for this sorry state of affairs is irresponsible and corrupt officials who are not held accountable for their failure to enforce strict rules against violators and unscrupulous garbage contractors. Either people ignore illegal dumping, or authorities fail to hold offenders accountable."

> **"The very essence of our neighbourhood has been eroded by the BBMP's neglect. It's disheartening to witness the degradation of our surroundings**
>
> –a resident

Another resident said, "The very essence of our neighbourhood has been eroded by the BBMP's neglect. It's disheartening to witness the degradation of our surroundings due to this ongoing garbage issue. The misuse of our public spaces for dumping is a clear sign of the system's failure."

Have the sniffles or 'red eye'? Stay off school

Schools issue advisories to parents asking them not to send children to school if they have any listed symptom

| Sridhar.Vivan@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @sridharvMIRROR

City schools have issued urgent advisories to parents, urging them not to send their children to school if they display symptoms such as 'red eye,' cough, or cold. The move comes as a precautionary measure against the increasing cases of dengue and conjunctivitis in the region. A school advisory released on Thursday stated, "Dear parents, due to the increasing cases of dengue and conjunctivitis, we kindly request that you refrain from sending your children to school if they display any of these symptoms. In cases where your child has a cough and cold, wearing a mask is mandatory."

Karnataka Associated Managements of English Medium Schools (KAMS) General Secretary, D Shashi Kumar said, "We provide health advisories to schools to prevent unwell children from attending, as they could potentially infect others. Even parents are expressing concerns. While some parents are extremely cautious and keep their children at home, there are others who appear less concerned about spreading infections and continue to send their sick children to school, which could contribute to the spread of infectious illnesses. In our school, we have also been advising students to guard against dengue by avoiding playgrounds and gardens where stagnant water might become breeding grounds for mosquitoes."

Doctors observe a surge in cases of conjunctivitis, among school-going children

Doctors are observing a surge in cases of conjunctivitis, a condition characterised by eye redness and irritation, among school-going children. They also explain that patients often present symptoms such as eye itching, arising from inflammation or infection of the transparent membrane known as the conjunctiva, which lines the eyelids and covers the white portion of the eyeball. "This type of infection is particularly common during transitional seasons. Interestingly, the number of cases decreased during the COVID-19 years, with doctors attributing this decline to pandemic-related restrictions such as hand hygiene and physical distancing measures that curtailed the spread of conjunctivitis. However, as restrictions have eased and hygiene practices have become less consistent, cases have been on the rise once more. We emphasise that the infection is highly contagious, and the most effective measure is isolation. Infected children should be kept away from school, and adults should avoid close contact. The infection is mainly viral, though bacterial causes can occur, and it generally does not impact vision. Symptoms tend to improve with appropriate treatment", Dr Krishnamurthy HN, a general physician said.

A paediatrician explained, "Conjunctivitis can stem from viral, bacterial, or allergic sources. Typically, viral and bacterial conjunctivitis are transmitted through person-to-person contact, often via hands or objects contaminated by an infected individual. Allergic conjunctivitis, on the other hand, results from allergies. Symptoms may range from eye redness to discharge, accompanied by itching or a burning sensation. "The paediatrician noted that during this season, viral conjunctivitis is more prevalent due to viral infections. Allergic conjunctivitis tends to persist longer, while viral and bacterial forms may last from five to ten days with appropriate treatment. He emphasised that a robust immune system aids in prevention and advised people to avoid crowded places and wear goggles while driving, while also advocating for frequent hand cleaning. In children, the infection might last three to five days with treatment, and since kids often play outdoors, maintaining proper hygiene and avoiding dust is crucial."

Karnataka ranks 4th in filing IT returns

| Sridhar.Vivan@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @sridharvMIRROR

Over the past four financial years, there has been a consistent rise in the number of income tax returns filed by individuals in Karnataka, indicating a positive trend in tax compliance and awareness among the residents. In the fiscal year 2019-20, approximately 38.18 lakh individuals filed their IT returns, and this number slightly increased to 39.25 lakh in 2020-21. The following year, in 2021-22, the number of tax filers further grew to 39.80 lakh, and in the latest financial year, 2022-23, it reached 42.58 lakh. This steady growth in tax filing showcases a growing sense of responsibility among the people of Karnataka towards fulfilling their tax obligations.

To assess Karnataka's significance in the national tax landscape, we can analyse its contribution to the overall IT returns filed in India. In the financial year 2021-22, Karnataka's share in the total IT returns filed in India was approximately 5.74%, and in the latest financial year 2022-23, it stood at around 5.75%. These figures indicate that Karnataka consistently contributes a significant portion of tax returns to the nation, showcasing its active participation in the country's economic growth.

Regarding zero tax liability, out of the total number of returns filed in Karnataka for the last four financial years, 12,46,799 individuals had zero tax liability in 2019-20, followed by 23,61,785 in 2020-21, 24,22,438 in 2021-22, and 24,63,232 in 2022-23. This data suggests that a substantial number of tax filers in the state did not have any tax liability during these periods.

In the financial year 2022-23, Karnataka filed with a total of 42,58,035 IT returns. Uttar Pradesh secured the second position with 71,65,746 IT returns filed, while Tamil Nadu secured the third position with 45,90,531 IT returns. The state with the highest number of IT returns filed in 2022-23 was Maharashtra, with a total of 1,13,91,610 IT returns.

During a recent reply in the parliament, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharama said, "There has been a 6.18% increase in the number of individuals filing Income Tax Returns in the Financial Year 2022-23 compared to the previous year. This growth can be attributed to several steps taken by the Government to enhance tax compliance. Some of these measures include expanding the scope of Tax Deducted at Source/Tax Collected at Source (TDS/TCS) to cover various transactions, simplifying Personal Income tax filing by offering lower slab rates for those not availing specific exemptions, and providing pre-filled Income Tax Returns with relevant information for individual taxpayers."

On the reasons for increasing tax compliance, she said the introduction of the updated Form 26AS, containing comprehensive information on tax deductions, specified financial transactions, tax payments, and more, has improved taxpayer awareness and voluntary compliance.

HEALTH TIP: Vitamin C is shown to be an effective preventative against the common cold as it boosts the immune system

Pineapple has anti-inflammatory properties, naturally aiding digestion and preventing acid reflux

BangaloreMirror | 7
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LETHAL LOVE

How to recognise a toxic relationship

You've probably heard the term 'toxic relationship' countless times. A mainstay in discussions about love and dating in the modern age, it's important for individuals to be aware of the early signs and risks of such a relationship in order to prioritise their wellbeing. Read on to know everything you need to know about navigating toxic relationships.

What Is it?

A toxic relationship is one that has a negative impact on your emotional, psychological, or physical well-being. It is a relationship that includes manipulation, control, abuse, or neglect. Toxic relationships can be difficult to identify since they frequently entail a pattern of loving behavior, discord, and reconciliation.

Signs

Toxic relationships can have a profound negative impact on our emotional, psychological, and physical well-being. It is important to recognize the signs of a toxic relationship and take steps to get out of it. Here are some signs of a toxic relationship:

Lack of support

In a healthy relationship, both partners should feel supported and encouraged by each other. In a toxic relationship, one partner may fail to provide emotional support or actively discourage their partner from pursuing their goals and aspirations.

Envy or jealousy

Envy or jealousy can be a sign of a toxic relationship, as it can lead to possessiveness, controlling behavior, and even emotional or physical abuse. Partners in a healthy relationship should feel secure and trusting with each other, without the need for jealousy or possessiveness.

Toxic communication

Communication is the foundation of any healthy relationship. In a toxic relationship, communication may involve constant criticism, name-calling, or verbal abuse. This kind of communication can erode self-esteem and lead to serious emotional and psychological harm.

Dishonesty

Honesty and trust are key components of any healthy relationship. In a toxic relationship, one partner may consistently lie or withhold information from the other, leading to a breakdown of trust and a lack of emotional intimacy.

Controlling behaviour

Controlling behaviour can take many forms, from dictating what your partner wears or whom they can talk to, to threatening or coercive behaviour. In a healthy relationship, both partners should feel free to make their own choices and decisions.

Resentment

Resentment can be a toxic emotion that can poison a relationship over time. In a healthy relationship, both partners should be able to communicate their feelings openly and work together to resolve conflicts.

Patterns of disrespect

Disrespectful behavior, such as belittling or humiliating one's partner in public or private, can be a sign of a toxic relationship. Partners in a healthy relationship should treat each other with kindness and respect, even during disagreements or arguments.

Constant stress

A toxic relationship can cause constant stress, leading to physical and emotional health problems. If you are in a toxic relationship, it's important to seek support and help to manage your stress levels and take care of your health.

Ignoring your needs

In a healthy relationship, both partners should feel heard and supported. In a toxic relationship, one partner may consistently ignore the other's needs or prioritize their own needs over their partner's. This can lead to resentment and frustration over time.

Money manners

Money can be a source of stress and tension in any relationship, but in a toxic relationship, one partner may use money as a way to control or manipulate their partner. This can lead to financial instability and stress.

Lost relationships

A toxic partner may isolate their partner from friends and family, causing them to lose important relationships and support systems. This kind of behavior is often a warning sign of emotional or psychological abuse.

Lack of self-care

In a toxic relationship, one partner may neglect their own self-care and well-being, putting their health at risk. This can include neglecting basic needs such as sleep, nutrition, and exercise, or avoiding social or emotional support.

Hoping for change

It's natural to want to hold onto hope for a relationship, but in a toxic relationship, one partner may fail to put in the effort needed to improve the relationship. If you are hoping for change in a toxic relationship, it's important to take action to address the underlying issues and work towards a healthier, happier relationship.

Walking on eggshells

It refers to the feeling of being in a situation where you have to be very careful about what you say or do because you are afraid of upsetting someone else.

Toxic vs. Healthy

Toxic behaviour is defined as behavior patterns that are destructive or abusive to oneself or others. Toxic behavior in a relationship can take the form of control, manipulation, envy, criticism, verbal or physical abuse, and contempt. It is frequently caused by a lack of emotional intelligence, poor self-esteem, or a desire for power and control over others.

A healthy relationship on the other hand, includes mutual respect, communication, trust, and support. Being able to express oneself honestly and politely, actively listening to the other person, and creating appropriate limits are all examples of healthy behavior. It also entails accepting responsibility for one's own feelings and behaviors, as well as avoiding harmful patterns of behavior.

Active listening, compromise, demonstrating empathy and understanding, expressing gratitude and appreciation, constructively providing and receiving feedback, and honoring the other person's feelings and needs are all examples of good relationship behavior.

Controlling the other person's actions or decisions, using threats or intimidation to manipulate, denigrating or insulting the other person, accusing or gaslighting them, and exhibiting a lack of empathy or care for their well-being are all examples of toxic behaviour. It is critical to distinguish toxic from healthy behaviour in a relationship and to take actions to confront and alter any harmful patterns of behaviour.

Is it possible to fix a toxic relationship?

It's natural to want to salvage a relationship that once brought joy and companionship. The good news is that fixing a toxic relationship is possible, but it requires effort, patience, and dedication. Here are some specific tips to help you turn things around:

Willingness to invest

Relationships require investment from both parties. A toxic relationship can be fixed only if both partners are willing to put in the work to change things for the better. This means being willing to prioritize the relationship, making time for each other, and putting in the effort to communicate effectively.

Acceptance of responsibility

In any relationship, there are two sides to every story. Both partners must be willing to take responsibility for their actions and behaviors. This means acknowledging the role they have played in the relationship's problems, apologizing for any hurt they may have caused, and committing to changing negative patterns.

Openness to seek help

Sometimes, a relationship requires the help of an outside party, such as a counselor or therapist. Seeking help is not a sign of weakness but a sign of strength. A professional can help both partners identify negative patterns and develop healthy habits to repair the relationship.

by Mahek Aggarwal, Femina

All you need to know about...

Fat-burning exercise

Differs for each person
The best heart rate for burning fat differs for each individual and often does not align with the "fat burning zone" on commercial exercise machines, according to a small study.

Clinical exercise testing
Instead, clinical exercise testing -- a diagnostic procedure to measure a person's physiological response to exercise -- may be a more useful tool to help individuals achieve intended fat loss goals, said researchers from the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai.

No fat-burning zone
The study was published online in Nutrition, Metabolism and Cardiovascular Disease. "People with a goal of weight or fat loss may be interested in exercising at the intensity which allows for the maximal rate of fat burning. Most exercise machines offer a 'fat-burning zone' option, depending upon age, sex, and heart rate," said lead author Hannah Kittrell, doctoral candidate at Icahn Mount Sinai. "However, the typically recommended fat-burning zone has not been validated, thus individuals may be exercising at intensities that are not aligned with their personalised weight loss goals," she added.

FATmax
The term FATmax is sometimes used to represent the exercise intensity and associated heart rate at which the body reaches its highest fat-burning rate during aerobic exercise. At this point, fat is a significant fuel source and therefore this intensity may be of interest to those seeking to optimise fat loss during workouts. As part of the study, the researchers compared heart rate at FATmax, as measured during a clinical exercise test, to predicted heart rate at percentages of maximal effort within the typically recommended "fat-burning zone". —IANS

Strays injured: Rise in no. of vehicles, negligence to blame

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

During the study period of 12 months (January 2022 to December 2022), a total of 49,600 cases were presented to the Veterinary Clinical Complex (VCC) of the college. Out of this, 39,297 cases were dog cases, in which 13,761 cases were presented to the Department of Veterinary Surgery and Radiology, Hebbal, Bengaluru, among which 9,959 were dog cases. Among them, 370 (3.71%) dogs were found to be having fractures of various bones, and careful examination revealed that 55 were of tibial fractures and 31 cases of vehicles hitting the animals.

Researchers say the metropolitan setup and increase in vehicular density in Bengaluru might be the reason behind the greater frequency of automobile accidents. Moreover, most of the stray dogs in the city are semi-domesticated where they freely move around in search of food and mates and get hit while they are on the move.

"The number of vehicles on Bengaluru's roads has gone up considerably. These accidents are mostly due to the negligence of the drivers. It is difficult for an animal to access these situations and exercise caution. Thus, drivers should be extra careful while driving," said Dr Murthy.

Animal welfare workers say only if the police take more serious note of traffic offences involving motorists running over dogs intentionally or unintentionally, we may start to see a reduction in the number of these accidents. They say despite the best efforts of community caregivers such as putting reflective collars on strays and ensuring birth control surgeries, stray dogs still run the risk of sustaining injuries due to careless, rash, and speedy driving in residential areas.

"We have lost many community dogs to road accidents. Bikers riding on pavements, jumping signals, riding on the wrong side of the road - all these put dogs at risk especially the old ones or the young pups who may be sleeping on pavements or crossing streets and cannot jump out of the way quickly. Citizens can also be cognizant of the dogs that share our world, show care and compassion and drive carefully when they see them. Despite the best efforts of community caregivers, the dogs are still at risk. Police should deal strictly with accident cases involving animals," said Gayatri Balaji, an animal welfare worker from JP Nagar.

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CHANGE OF NAME

I, AKKAMAHADEVI NALVATTAWAD, Residing at no.255, 15th Main, Muneshwara Block, Bengaluru - 560050, have changed my name to SHANTHA VENKAPPA SANAGOUDAR, vide affidavit dated 14/08/2023, sworn before notary Devaki M, Bengaluru.

GALLERIA

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Sharing is caring when it comes to connectivity

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Shivajinagar, said that shared auto services are being provided by drivers despite it being illegal. He explained that the rides are profitable as they cost Rs 30 per seat for a distance of 1-1.5 km so the drivers opt to provide sharing services. "The commuters are dropped to a designated point on the main road on a particular route every day. Metro users often require a reliable mode of commute for last-mile connectivity that is also economical. As for us, this gives us a reliable customer base such as officer-goers and other groups like school children who bring in consistent income," he said.

He added that the mandate to obtain a different licence must be done away with so auto drivers can provide auto-sharing services legally, without any fear of being caught. Then, fares can be regulated by the transport department, he suggested.

Sandeep Anirudhan, convener Bengaluru Mobility/Citizens' Agenda for Bengaluru, said shared mobility is the best way to go forward and shared autos are a need of the hour. "Even villages nearby Bengaluru are connected by share autos and they have an integrated network that functions with ease. For Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) to be an attractive option for travel, the government must make way for services that will ensure first and last-mile connectivity an easy

affair. This can best be done by shared mobility," he explained. He said that the current regulations are outdated and pointed out that other metropolitan cities in the country like Mumbai, Delhi, and Chennai have evolved to allow an auto-sharing service which has made the public rely on public transport for the larger part of their commute. He also suggested liberalisation of taxi permits to enable auto drivers to provide sharing services.

Sanjana Rao, an IT employee, who frequently uses the Rajajinagar metro and lives close to one km away from the metro station said, "While shared autos are economical and also relatively reliable, there are certain safety concerns. I may not be comfortable with a stranger sitting so close next to me in the auto. There is a minority of the population that feels the same," she said.

Rajkumar Dugar, a public transport enthusiast and founder of C4C, said that the model followed in the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) in Bengaluru is that electric four-seater spacious autos that follow the shuttle system are deployed to provide connectivity across the campus. "Women will feel more comfortable as these vehicles are more spacious. Even the elderly struggle with sharing a three-seat auto. Many autos with more seating capacity must be deployed on a single designated route," he suggested.

A report by the Task Force on Clean Transportation set up by the NITI Ayog notes that while two-wheelers and three-wheelers are significant, however, they are highly polluting methods used for last-mile connectivity. It has also suggested that electrical technology must be adopted to overcome the challenge. Along with this, if taxi permits are liberalised, auto-sharing services can prove to be a solution for first as well as last-mile connectivity, it suggests.

Woes of waste-pickers

On Independence Day, waste pickers have called for independence from low wages, unsegregated and misunderstanding in society.

BM spoke to waste pickers across the city to understand the challenges they face on a daily basis.

Indumathi of Bellandur ward told BM that unsegregated waste reaching the collection centres has become a problem. "In Bengaluru, due to BBMP collecting wet and dry waste separately, our livelihood has been impacted. We also face a lot of harassment from citizens and they need to be educated about our role in society. Even after collection, we struggle without having fixed rates and collection quantities. Waste pickers bear the brunt of the deal even for high-value plastic. Most waste pickers do not send their children to schools as they are not given a deserving space in society," she said.

Another waste picker told BM that waste pickers are given DWCCs, which would be helpful. "It would be beneficial for DWCCs to be given to waste pickers. Mixed waste keeps coming to DWCCs. Sometimes there are glass pieces or sharp objects, novice pickers get injured while segregating it. If citizens are careful while disposing of waste, it would be helpful. There is a need to look after the education of children of waste pickers and other members of the informal sector. Currently, all the waste is going to BBMP's established dry waste collection centre but if we receive it directly, it would be helpful," said Indira of Kamakshipalya ward.

Gangaraju from TC Palya told BM that they constantly face harassment from police officials. "We are part of the informal waste picker community but we are called thieves. Somedays, we are not able to get daily food. Some days there is work and others no work at all," he added.

—Melvin Mathew

 # Algeria off Barbie now
Algeria has withdrawn the film "Barbie" from its cinemas for reportedly breaching morals

IN HER SKIN

Actresses who were asked to get cosmetic surgery for film roles

Saiyami Kher is the latest actress to open up about the dark side of Bollywood and its beauty standards. The actress, who will bring to the screens an empowering story of a female athlete, opened up about being asked to get a nose job when she was just a teen. Here's a list of actresses who were asked to go under the knife to bag film roles. —ETimes

Deepika Padukone

Deepika Padukone was also asked to undergo the knife when she was just 18. Speaking to Filmfare, the actress recalled the worst advice she received was to get breast implants. "I was all of 18 and I often wonder how I had the wisdom to not take it seriously," she said.."

Esha Gupta

Esha Gupta made jaws drop when she revealed that she was asked to get skin-lightening treatments to bag film roles. "I remember when I used to go to meetings or auditions, people used to say, 'Oh, you should do your colour light or take those injections, which cost a lot of money'. Because a lot of actresses have done that and changed the colour... but I never understood that concept," she wrote in an explosive post. Gupta also revealed that she was asked to get a 'sharp' nose like other actresses.

Saiyami Kher

Saiyami Kher who will soon be seen sharing the screen with Abhishek Bachchan in 'Ghoomer', opened up about the nasty comments that were made against her body. The actress revealed that she was told to get work done on her nose and her breasts when she was just 18. The actress said that she was told to go under the knife during her modelling days so that 'people wouldn't notice' the procedures done when she made her acting debut. Kher said that while the comments were disheartening, she had the support of her parents.

Sanya Malhotra

Did you know Sanya Malhotra was once asked to get jaw surgery to alter her appearance? The 'Jawan' actress opened up about the unusual advice she got during her struggling days but credited her strong will and confidence that got her through.

Priyanka Chopra

Priyanka Chopra, who is making a name for herself in Hollywood, opened up in her memoir about being called 'Plastic Chopra' and how her appearance lead to her losing several films. The actress shared that an industry bigwig encouraged her to get cosmetic procedures to boost her career while another recommended that she should get her body proportions 'fixed'. Interestingly, her manager also agreed, prompting her to end her contract with the manager.

Radhika Apte

In an interview, Radhika Apte expressed her anger on derogatory remarks about her appearance and physical features during her initial years in the film industry. She revealed that she was not only advised to get a nose job done, but was also told to get breast implants in order to bag film roles.

SANDALWOOD SHOTS
Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Finally!

Good news for fans of Roopesh Shetty. Roopesh, who celebrated his birthday on August 14, is set to play the lead in Adhipatra. The winner of Bigg Boss Kannada Season 9, also celebrated 50 days screening of his latest Tulu movie Circus on Monday.

His fans have been waiting for the announcement of his latest movie since last December. Rooopesh finally announced the title of his latest movie on the occasion of his birthday.

According to sources, Roopesh wanted to act in a Kannada movie as soon as he was declared the winner of Bigg Boss Kannada but he was compelled to take up the Tulu movie. It is said that Circus has successfully completed the screening of 50 days at around 150 theaters in the state. Roopesh Shetty not only helmed the movie but also played the lead role.

Chayan Shetty has been assigned to handle the megaphone for the Adhipatra.

Credit worthy

Director-cum-producer KM Shashidhara is excited about his latest movie Cibil Score which is expected to go to floors soon. Shashidhara is known for handling Sugarless and bankrolling D/o Parvathamma and Veeram.

Shashidhara is known for focusing on story-oriented movies. "Cibil Score is a three-digit number that measures your credit health. Most of the people neglect it without realising the difficulties to avail of a loan from any financial institution if their Cibil Score is poor. My aim is to create awareness among the public about the importance of maintaining their Cibil Score. I worked in a financial institution so I know its importance," says Shashidhara.

He said most youngsters fail to utilise the loans availed from banks and thus end up defaulters. "I come across many youths who gamble away the money. The movie highlights how bank loans are being misused and poured into online gambling," he said.

According to him, the process of selecting cast and crew is in progress. Emotions Factory Group (EFG) is bankrolling the movie while Vivek Srikantaiah is the creative producer.

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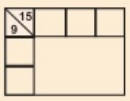
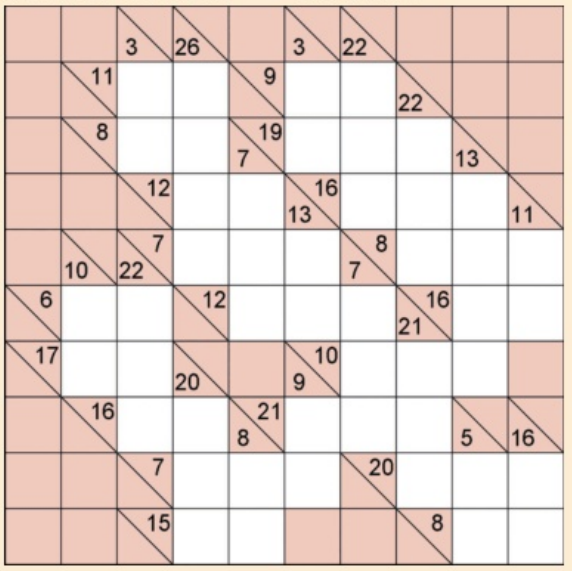
Kakuro

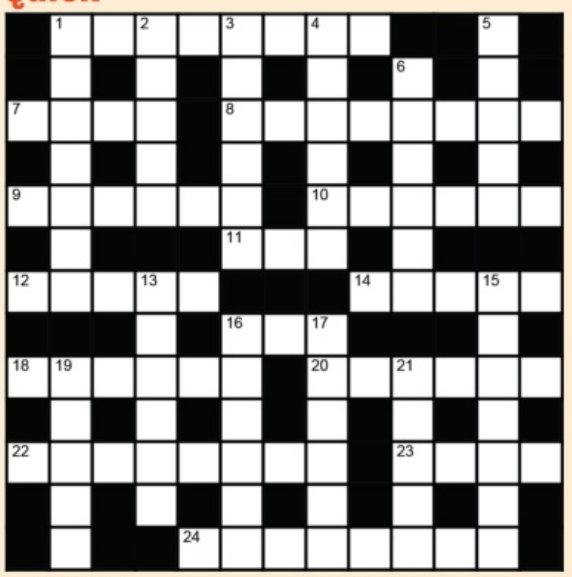
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Infer presence of a disease, etc. from symptoms (8)
7 India's ___ capital: Bangalore for sure (4)
8 Evacuating, abdicating or pulling out (8)
9 Motor fuel (6)
10 Yearned for (6)
11 Ursula's film (3)
12 Hurried or quick (5)
14 NW US state (5)
16 An expression of disgust or belittlement (3)
18 ____ off : frees oneself from (6)
20 Curved structures (6)
22 Takes away some amount from the whole (8)
23 Declare (4)
24 Plain and unsophisticated (8)

DOWN

1 Ms Padukone of Bollywood (7)
2 Areas of land (5)
3 Works of fiction (6)
4 Reaping-hook (6)
5 Metric weight (5)
6 Made amends (6)
13 Grabbers - not givers? (6)
15 A type of dance - " who done" anagram? (7)
16 Famous Hitchcock movie (6)
17 Trouble; nuisance (6)
19 Considers or regards (5)
21 ___ down on : become stricter about? (5)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: Q EQUALS O

IZ I GFCCVX TIXZU QCV MLQJDG VIZ PFMVDU KJZ CQZ ZQQ PVDD, ICG ZIDW PVDD KJZ CQZ ZQQ PFMVDU

Linemaro

I've had quite a bit to drink and you're beginning to look pretty good

Mindchow

The defects of great men are the consolation of the dunces

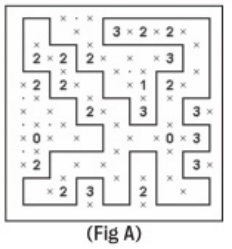
Joke of the day

Politics is the gentle art of getting votes from the poor and campaign funds from the rich, by promising to protect each from the other

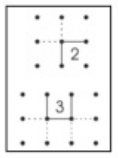
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

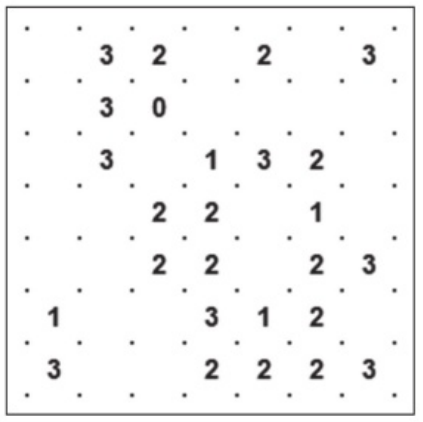


(Fig B) Not Allowed

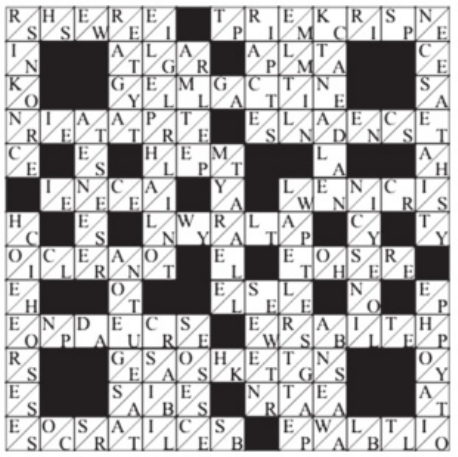
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



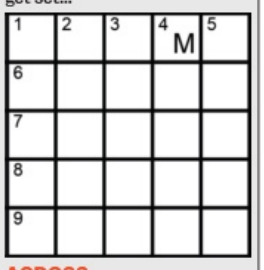
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

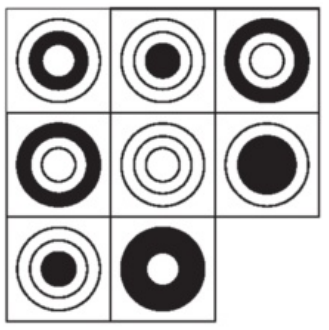
1 P Mart; 6 Lehar;
7 Medea; 8 ie Cry;
9 Ma's OK

DOWN

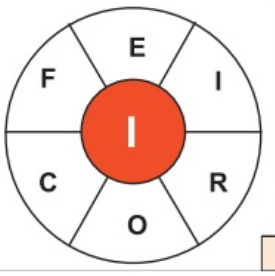
1 Met HR; 2 Road I;
3 L cake; 4 Ems me;
5 Pry a a

Mensapuzzle

Which is the missing tile?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

04 Average; **05** Good; **06** Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

				9			6	
3			8	7		5		
			2		4			1
	5					1		4
	7	4	5		6	3	2	
8		2					7	
9			6		7			
		5		3	8			7
	8			5				

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 14

2 3 6 9

Medium = 14

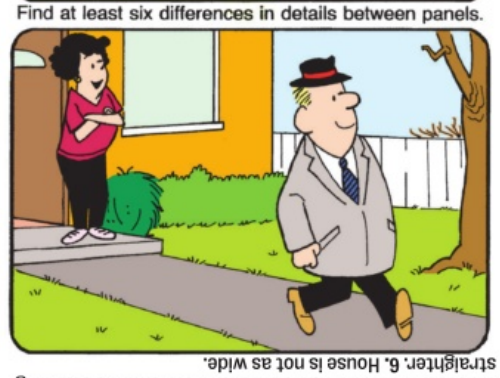
1 4 5 6

Hard = 43

3 5 9 5

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



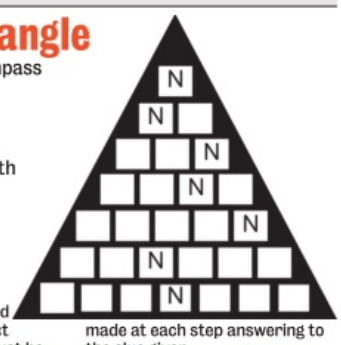
Differences: 1. Leg is moved. 2. Arm is longer. 3. Foot is moved. 4. Hat is different. 5. Woman is standing straighter. 6. House is not as wide.

Riddler

What is represented by this? Jack's Saturday Your Tuesday 92 Bob's Sunday Your Thursday 24 Jill's Wednesday Your Friday 70 Alison's Monday

Alpha triangle

1 North on the compass
2 Neon symbol
3 Simba's home
4 Hamlet, e.g.
5 Burdened
6 Pertaining to teeth
7 Angled, a slope



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

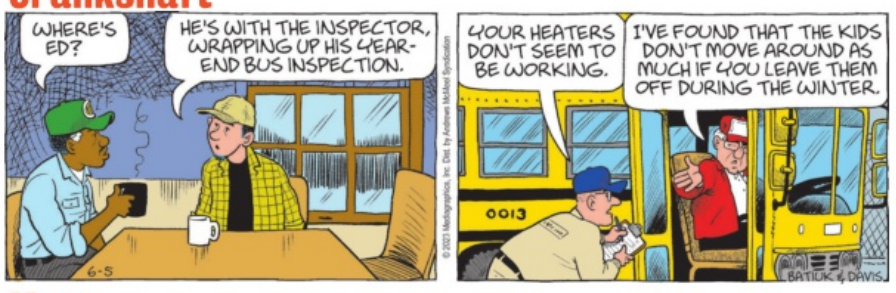
Redeye by Mel Casson

Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

Crankshaft



Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you may be able to implement your plans with the help of your strong network at work. You are likely to secure a significant order with your hard work. There is a good chance of understanding between you and your spouse, which may enhance harmony in your domestic life. Your boss may appreciate your dedication and hardwork.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today, you are blessed by the moon. The messy situation from the past few days is now under control. You may now initiate the tasks you had postponed. With these blessings, you may get the rewards of your hard work. There are potential gains in your business that could enhance your financial health. Additionally, you might encounter unexpected opportunities that could potentially expand your business or work. Consider planning for an overseas trip as well.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, you may not feel well as you might experience health issues that could impact both your profession and domestic life. You may also be feeling upset due to your spouse's health issues. Your patience could be tested multiple times. It is advised not to invest in new business projects, as doing so might lead to losses. Students are recommended to avoid distractions and focus on their studies.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today, you are blessed by the moon, and this might enable you to make quick decisions on the professional front. You could expect new opportunities in terms of business, which may boost your confidence. It's likely that you will begin a new innovation with the assistance of your business partner, potentially leading to business growth in the near future.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, you are blessed by a positive moon. You may feel healthy, and chronic health issues might be cured now. Your kids' health may also be better. The money that was stuck somewhere may likely be recovered now. Additionally, you may be able to repay your debt.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, you are blessed by the Moon, which may provide you with peace of mind. You might become more decisive, enabling you to seize opportunities without second thoughts. Past karma could help you endure various situations and guide you along the right path. Lovebirds may cherish their joyful moments. Job aspirants are likely to secure a suitable job with the help of friends.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, you may feel dull. Detachment from responsibilities could make you upset. You might not be able to fulfill your commitments, which could affect your prestige. You may become a victim of arrogance, which could impact both your professional and domestic life. Internally, you might sense a lack of confidence, potentially hindering your ability to engage in creative work.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, you may be enthusiastic. Your focus on your goals may be very strong, and you might easily achieve your targets. You are likely to go for short work-related trips, which could bring you benefits in the near future. Your subordinate staff may assist you in completing important projects. Disputes with siblings could arise.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, you are blessed by the moon. You might plan to invest more capital into the family business, potentially leading to an expansion in the near future. Expect to receive rewards for your social services. Anticipate hearing good news within your family, fostering a joyful environment. Additionally, you may enjoy some delicious food.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, you may feel happy and your health is also good, providing you with inner strength and self-confidence. Your subconscious mind may prevent you from avoiding messy tasks. Your social prestige is likely to increase. With the help of your good karma, destiny may guide you to initiate some innovative tasks.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, you may feel unhappy and disappointed. It is advised that you control your arrogance, otherwise, you might incur losses due to speaking harshly when interacting with others. Furthermore, it's recommended to avoid long trips and rush driving. It would be wise to stay away from bay areas or oceans.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, there may be peace of mind. Your earnings could boost your financial health. You may enjoy romantic moments with your spouse, which could enhance harmony in family life. Singles might find a suitable match. Expect numerous opportunities at work, and you may observe progress in your life.

KIDZONE

Nikhil Vinnayak SA, 10 Years, Balwin Boys High-School

Vaishna Y Sudheer, 10 Years, Mother Teresa Public School

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SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
= √(4*2) + √(4*3) + √(4*5) / (9*2) + √(9*3) + √(9*5)
= 2√2 + 2√3 + 2√5 / 3√2 + 3√3 + 3√5
= 2 (√2+√3+√5) / 3 (√2+√3+√5)
= 2/3

STRIKE OUT

S	H	E	R	E	■	P	R	E	C	I	S	E	■	■
O	A	L	A	■	A	M	A	■	C	■	■	■	■	■
N	■	A	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■

QUICK

■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
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■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■

MENSA PUZZLE
B: in each line and column, each of the three rings is shaded black once

RIDDLER
Your days are numbered.

BULL'S EYE
cott, fire, ioier, ORIFICE, rice, rifle

2	1	7	3	9	5	6	8	4
3	4	6	8	7	1	5	9	2
5	9	8	2	6	4	7	3	1
6	5	9	7	2	3	1	8	4
1	7	4	5	8	6	3	2	9
8	3	2	4	1	9	6	7	5
9	2	1	6	4	7	8	5	3
4	6	5	9	3	8	2	1	7
7	8	3	1	5	2	9	4	6

SUDOKU

ALPHA TRIANGLE
N, Ne, Den, Dane, Laden, Dental, Slanted.

GO FIGURE
Easy
9 + 2 + 6 − 3 = 14
Medium
4 + 6 + 5 − 1 = 14
Hard
9 x 5 − 5 + 3 = 43

LOOP

KAKURO

■	■	■	9	6	■	■	■	■
■	■	4	2	1	■	■	■	■
■	3	1	■	2	9	■	■	■
9	8	■	1	3	2	■	■	■
7	6	1	2	■	3	1	■	■
1	2	3	■	1	4	2	3	■
■	■	2	1	4	■	3	1	2
■	■	■	3	2	1	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	1	2	■	■	■

FAST FIVE

T	R	A	M	P
H	A	L	E	R
E	D	E	M	A
R	I	C	E	Y
M	O	K	S	A

QUOTE UNCODE
At a dinner party one should eat wisely but not too well, and talk well but not too wisely

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  - SIDE IMPACT

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